

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 051035Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1311

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

S E C R E T BANGKOK 3691

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI 05 MAR. REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

S E C R E T CHIANG MAI 056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGVO

SUBJECT: KING'S RETURN TO BANGKOK

REF: CHIANG MAI 052

1. I WAS INFORMED NIGHT OF MARCH 3 BY CHIANG MAI GOVERNOR ASA
THAT KING WOULD RETURN TO BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI AFTERNOON
OF MARCH 4, THUS ENDING STAY OF TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTHS HERE
AT PHUPING PALACE.

2. HIS MAJESTY'S SECURITY AIDE POL. GEN. VASIT
DEJKUNCHON, SAID MARCH 3 THAT HIS MAJESTY'S DECISION TO
RETURN TO BANGKOK AT THIS TIME WAS CONTRARY TO ADVISE OF
HIS PHYSICIANS, WHO WANTED HIM TO REMAIN IN CHIANG MAI FOR
ANOTHER TWO WEEKS TO RECUPERATE FROM LONG ILLNESS. HOWEVER,
VASIT SAID DECISION WAS BASED ON FACT TWO PRINCESSES ARE
SCHEDULED TO TAKE FINAL EXAMINATIONS AT THEIR RESPECTIVE

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SCHOOLS IN BANGKOK AND HIS MAJESTY HIMSELF FEELS FIT ENOUGH

TO RETURN.

3. AT CHIANG MAI AIRPORT AFTERNOON OF MARCH 4 BEFORE HIS MAJESTY'S ARRIVAL WUT LADAWAN, SON OF H.M.'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, CONFIRMED VASIT'S VERSION OF REASONS FOR KING'S DEPARTURE. HE ADDED THAT QUEEN HAD OPPOSED RETURN TO BANGKOK BUT HIS MAJESTY'S WILL PREVAILED. WUT SAID PRINCESS SIRINTHORN HAD EXAMINATION SCHEDULED MARCH 5 AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY.

4. ROYAL FAMILY ARRIVED AT CHIANG MAI AIRPORT (APPARENTLY CUSTOMARY) TWO HOURS LATE AND MOVED SLOWLY DOWN RECEPTION LINE. HIS MAJESTY WAS INTERRUPTED ONCE BY OLD WOMAN PRESENTING PETITION, INCIDENT WHICH DISTURBED POLICE GREATLY BUT KING NOT AT ALL. LATTER STOPPED IN FRONT OF GROUP OF LOCAL THAI BUREAUCRATS AND GAVE THEM QUIET BUT VERY DIRECT PEP TALK ABOUT HOW THEY SHOULD LEAVE THEIR DESKS AND SPEND TIME OUT IN VILLAGES HELPING PEOPLE.

5. HIS MAJESTY APPEARED TO BE ALMOST COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM ILLNESS, BUT MOVED BIT SLOWER AND SPOKE BIT SOFTER THAN USUAL. HE APPEARED MORE ANXIOUS TO BOARD PLANE THAN QUEEN WHO CONVERSED WITH MANY PEOPLE ON RECEPTION LINE, REMARKING TO CONSUL'S WIFE "THIS YEAR WE HAVE NOT BEEN SO LUCKY HERE."

6. COMMENT: WHILE REASONS INDICATE PARA 2 VERY WELL MIGHT HAVE BEEN FACTORS IN KING'S DECISION TO RETURN TO BANGKOK AGAINST ADVICE HIS PHYSICIANS, UPCOMING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN SENI GOVERNMENT SEEMS MORE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION.
HARBIN
UNQUOTE
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO003691
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750077-0747
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750382/aaaacvrn.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CHIANG MAI 052
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING'S RETURN TO BANGKOK
TAGS: PGOV, (PHUMIPHON ADUNYADET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006